

**John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
April 22, 2013
6:35 p.m.**

In Attendance: Amanda Pope, Kim Schmidt, Jenn Fleet, Lori Williams, Heather Quiring, Danielle Morales, Jackie Teixeira, Gillian McKenzie, Susie Gutri, Mandy Dahmer, Janice Mitchell, Helen Byers, Amy Knechtel-Shannon, Colleen Brandes, Jessie White, Deanna Heer, Marnie Wuensch

Regrets: Jen Hulett, Marti-Anne Hachey, Amanda Bourassa

Getting Started

- A motion was made to approve the February 25, 2013 minutes.
- Motion: Lori Williams Second: Amanda Pope Motion Carried
- A motion was made to approve the agenda.
- Motion: Amanda Pope Second: Colleen Brandes Motion Carried

Principal Profile: Jessie White

- The principal profile form needs to be filled out and submitted to WRDSB. The template was emailed to council, council is to give feedback to the chairs, they will fill in form, and Gillian will send it in.
- 1. School Council priorities/expectations for our principal include communication, trust, identifying school needs, technology initiatives
- 2. School Focus includes special programs your school provides such as green team, anti-bullying
- 3. Issues for your school if there was a change in administration and characteristics you would want your administrator to have include tech savvy, supportive of council/parents, collaborative approach, keeps the learning bar high, identify needs, supports and resources.

Parent Engagement Grant/Parent Reaching Out Grant

- As an aside, the follow-up report has been filled out and filed for the Parent Reaching Out Grant for the planners (\$1 000.00).
- Every school is allocated \$500.00 for the Parent Engagement Grant. The money is spent first, then submitted with receipts and reimbursed. We have used this money for Darlingfest and Boston Pizza flyers and banner.
- Lori Williams is looking into if this money can be used for the Gift Card Program for next year, perhaps for fridge magnets with the number on it.
- Ways other schools have used these grants were presented by Janice Mitchell, gathered from WRAPSC. Discussion was had regarding the term “parent engagement” and what that meant (things people do at home that connects them to the school or things they do at the school), looked like, and how we could

foster this? How do we bridge things like shift work, childcare, personal perceptions of school etc. to get people to come. Events involving children often bridges some of these issues e.g. Bike clinic, “screen-free week” with activities at the school each night, family games night.

- It was needed to be decided what use we would apply for the Parent Reaching Out Grant. It was agreed on a “focus on health and wellness event” (e.g. Zumba class, dietician). Motion: Helen Byers Second: Jessie White Motion Carried. Gillian will do this using the ministry guidelines regarding the phys ed program. A committee will be formed in September.
- Helen Byers asked if there is a need for each classroom to have a basket of fruit to promote healthy eating. Deanna Heer felt there was a need, an increasing need, for supplementary nutrition for students. It was questioned if: there might be fewer stigmas associated with use if baskets were in each class? there would be too much waste? a basket in the office would be more reasonable?
- Danielle Morales asked if there was a need for a breakfast program. There is a nutrition for learning application available which is for a breakfast program which has to run at least twice a week and is due April 30th. It could be run for all students once or twice a week. It was noted that a survey of the community ought to be done to determine need and volunteers. Maria Simmond’s daughter is interested in being a coordinator of this program. She is pursuing training and will then present to school council. It would be difficult to start a program like this time as fulltime JK/SK begins next year, the use of the daycare space is unknown and it is not known if there will be a before and after school childcare program. It was decided that this issue would need to be revisited in the fall to potentially run a program in 2014/15.

Movie Night: Friday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

- Volunteers are needed for set-up.
- Rise of the Guardian will play in the gym, Tangled in the library.
- Susie Gutri was able to get a quote from Kiddies Fun Track for a popcorn machine with all the supplies for \$120.00. Kim might have a lead on a machine for less. She will pursue this and follow up with Jessie. A motion was made to rent a popcorn machine for a maximum of \$120.00. Motion: Jessie White Second: Jenn Fleet Motion Carried
- A flyer will be going home soon with details and suggesting a donation of a non-perishable food item and for attendees to bring their own beverage.

Fundraising: Lori Williams

- The fundraising committee had to make a decision before this council meeting about whether or not to sell Treasure Books next year to get the 10 free book deal. The decision was made for the Treasure Books and the catalogues to be sold again next fall. The profit margin is 55%.
- There was an option presented to also sell chocolate. Discussion was held concerning selling an item with nuts and whether selling chocolate conflicted with

health and wellness and the school and WRDSB policy about nuts. It was decided that the chocolate was only one of three items being sold and that these issues could be addressed in the letter that goes home to the families.

- Colleen Brandes suggested doing an assembly with the students to get them excited about the fundraisers.
- The Vessey Bulb fundraiser profited +/- \$1800.00. Discussion was held to decide how much would be donated to Epilepsy Awareness. Gillian reminded council that this could set a precedent for future situations. A motion was made to donate \$250.00 to Epilepsy Awareness. Motion: Susie Gutri Second: Colleen Brandes Motion Carried
- There will not likely be a spring fundraiser in 2014 as, usually, the school does a fundraiser in the spring on alternating years.

WRAPSC: Janice Mitchell

- WRAPSC had a presenter speak about mental health.
- Janice reminded council to fill out the survey online about safety in schools. The survey is available until the end of the month.

Darlingfest: Jessie White

- The candy kabob evening will be held on Thursday, May 30th at 6:00 p.m. at Helen Byer's home.
- For the Darlingfest committee to meet before the next council meeting, a motion was made for the May 13th meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. Motion: Jessie White Second: Jenn Fleet Motion Carried
- A Facebook page has been set up rather than a website for Darlingfest. Council was encouraged to share this page and it will be twittered to Westheights.
- The dragon stuffys will be for sale at the movie night (Helen Byers at the table), at the kindergarten night (Jessie White at the table) and at Darlingfest.
- Pizza costs were researched. It was decided that Topper's Pizza would continue to be the supplier of pizza for Darlingfest.
- Volunteer letters will be going home soon. Volunteer sheets will also be delivered to Westheights and to Forest Heights.
- There will be a volunteer appreciation draw for volunteers who check in and check out of their stations at Darlingfest. The prize will be 3 movie passes.
- Staff has volunteered for the pie in the face event.
- Ms. Saunderson has volunteered to supervise air bands if she has help.
- Kim Schmidt has a source who has agreed to donate ice. She will confirm.
- Over 600 people attend Darlingfest; therefore, encourage small business owners for donations.
- The committee is looking at having a radio station entertaining.
- Boston Pizza nights are on May 6th and 8th. Remember to make reservations! A sign up sheet will be given to the staff to see if they would like to help serve at the restaurant.

Principal's Report: Gillian McKenzie

- School and Staffing Organization: A letter will be going home soon regarding the placement of students next year. Class building will happen in the coming weeks. The projected enrollment is 250 pupils. Losing the portable is anticipated. There has not yet been a determination of how the daycare space will be used. There will be 2 permanent teachers hired and an LTO (maternity leave). Whether or not Mrs. Goad will return has not been determined.
- Full Day/Everyday Kindergarten: At this point there will be 2 sections. The viability of before and after school programs will be determined based on expressions of interest as of April 31. Furniture and learning materials for both classes will be purchased in the coming weeks.
- WRDSB is updating its vision, mission, values and direction statement which is on the website and posted in the school.
- The safe, caring and inclusive schools on-line survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCIS_ParentGuardianSurvey
- April PD Day: Continue to build staff capacity with effective use of technology in the classroom and assessment tools and timing including Student Voice and The Use of Effective Descriptive Feedback which emphasizes the importance of us listening to children to understand what they are thinking.
- May PD Day: Assessment and reporting focus
- Performing Arts: Dufflebag Theatre production of Rumpelstiltskin on April 25 has an anti-bullying message and was funded by council for \$813.60.
- Charitable Donations: Monies which were left over from the past and not designated to charities have been sent out to UNICEF, Terry Fox Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society.
- Year End Activities: Volunteer Appreciation Tea (April 26), Junior Track and Field Meets, Camp (grades 4 and 5 day camp, grade 6 overnight), Earth Week Initiatives, School Spirit Days, Grade 6 Graduation (June 21), Kindergarten Parent Information Night (May 8), Kindergarten Family Fun Days (June 24,25), Canada Day Play Day (June 27), Air Bands (under discussion), Green Club, Darlingfest (staff participation on the agenda), Intramurals, Running Club (including Mudpuppy Run), EQAO (May/June)
- Gillian spoke about the change to Camp this year. She acknowledged that there was upset and anxiety regarding the plans for camp. This event takes a great deal of planning, which usually begins late December/early January. By March Break it was still unresolved how camp would look. Gillian spoke with staff about needing to make a statement to families about what would happen at year end. The Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario (ETFO) had not released staff to do extracurriculars; therefore, no one was available for overnight camp. There was less time for families to come up with the money for camp. The question became, if not overnight, then what? Brainstorming took place. Since there were 3 days booked, let's use them to benefit as many students as possible for the least cost. Maintaining ownership of these days was also considered. Grade 6 students and parents were quite upset about the decision that was initially presented (3 days of day camp, 1 for each of the junior grades). Gillian does not dispute this.

As far as this being a new president set, she is not thinking beyond this school year. Talking with some parents and discussion with the camp resulted in an extension for the grade 6 portion. They will now be leaving on the bus that is picking up the grade 5's, staying overnight and until 7:00 p.m. Susan Saunderson has agreed to supervise on the trip as has Gillian and 5 parent volunteers. (including enough for the boy cabins). Gillian noted that, moving forward, there have been changes and some traditions that have appeared to have been written in stone in the past may no longer be. It is a different context now than it was last June. Once the ETFO lifted their ban there was a number of staff announcing the programs they were going to run.

- A 25th Anniversary Committee has been struck to plan events in the fall. The first meeting will be held April 30 at 3:30 p.m.
- A new school website is coming. Gillian and Jan Harrison went for training on the 9th. The goal is for it to be live in June.
- I. T.: The last 3 document cameras have been ordered. All classes JK-6 have data projectors. All grades 1-6 have document cameras. JK/SK got an extra iPad. 10 more iPads were ordered. We now have +/- 44 iPads in circulation. Classes book them out in groups of 5 for 1 week. About ½ of the covers are now purchased.
- Future I.T. plans include developing a “Bring Your Own Personal Device” policy for J.D. Input from parent reps will be looked for.
- School Initiatives: Wyatt’s Tree Dedication Ceremony (May 6), Music Monday (May 6) <http://www.musicmonday.ca/>, John Howard Society anti-bullying presentation (grade 4-6) continue into May, Site-based Professional Development focused on math instruction best practice (learning math through problem solving, use of strategies, justifying your thinking, student talk), Health and Safety audit happened April 8th with overall good results and a few items to remedy such as missing signs, hook removal, mobiles hung too low, need for the Darlingfest storage room to be tidied up, and the Safe Schools Committee will be meeting to review and assess initiatives as well as identify areas for consideration to promote a safe caring and inclusive school community. Colleen Brandes and Jen Huggins are parent reps.

June 10 Council Meeting and Potluck

- To be held at 6:00 p.m. at Jessie White’s home (47 Westview Crescent).